

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSION
ON
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**



**Indiana Legislative Services Agency
200 W. Washington St., Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789**

November 2011

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Commission on Developmental Disabilities

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November, 2011

Commission on Developmental Disabilities

I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE

The Indiana Commission on Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities was established by P.L. 78-1994 to do the following:

- (1) Develop a long-range plan for community-based services for the developmentally disabled; and
- (2) Review, make recommendations, and monitor changes regarding services to the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled population.

P.L. 245-1997 amended the original legislation, extending the life of the Commission to January 1, 2001. P.L. 272-1999 further extended the life of the Commission to January 1, 2005, and added the following responsibilities:

- (1) Review and make recommendations regarding the implementation of a comprehensive plan ("317 Plan") prepared by the Developmental Disabilities Task Force; and
- (2) Review and make recommendations regarding the development of the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services of a statewide plan to address quality assurance in community-based services.

P.L. 242-2001 added an annual review of the Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities Program ("First Steps") to the Commission's duties.

In 2002, the Commission was converted to a permanent statutory commission in P.L. 190-2002 (see IC 2-5-27.2). In addition, the Commission was required to:

- (1) Study and make recommendations for the state to use state employees or contract with a private entity to manage and implement home and community-based services waivers;
- (2) Study and make recommendations regarding state funding needed to provide supplemental room and board costs for individuals who otherwise qualify for residential services under the home and community-based services waiver; and
- (3) Monitor and recommend changes for improvements in the implementation of home and community-based services waivers.

In 2009, the name of the Commission was changed to the Commission on Developmental Disabilities.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM

The Commission met three times during the 2011 interim session: on August 10, 2011, September 7, 2011, and October 5, 2011. The Commission is not required to file an final report.

Meeting minutes for the Commission can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>

At the August 10, 2011, meeting, the Commission received annual updates from the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Disability and Rehabilitative Services Division (DDRS), on: (1) vocational rehabilitation, (2) requirements contained in Section 144 of HEA 1001-2011, (3) employment initiatives, (4) the objective-based allocation budget process, (5) waiting list clean up, (6) the requirements of HEA 1047-2011, and (7) the number of individuals serviced with Medicaid waivers. Additionally, the Commission heard updates from Director John Dickerson of the ARC of Indiana and Mr. James Hammond, CEO of INARF.

At the September 7, 2011, meeting, the Commission received testimony from (1) the DDRS regarding the First Steps program and (2) Ms. Dee Quaglio regarding the work of Direct Support Professionals of Indiana.

At the October 5, 2011, meeting, the Commission received testimony from the following individuals: (1) Ms. Casey DePriest regarding music therapy, (2) Ms. Melody Cooper regarding the work of the Indiana Self Advocates, (3) DDRS staff regarding vocational rehabilitation and to answer questions posed by the Commission from previous meetings, (4) from Ms. Teresa Grossi of the Indiana University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities regarding employment issues, (5) Ms. Erika Steuterman and Mr. John Dickerson regarding work performed by the Medicaid Waiver Task Force, and (6) Ms. Lesa Paddock regarding her experiences with the Medicaid Waiver system.

III. COMMISSION FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission members report supporting the following:

- (1) The continued use and possible expansion of the use of music therapy.
- (2) The concept of a registry for music therapists pending a study by the FSSA that the use of such a registry would be fiscally neutral to the state.

Complete minutes from the meetings can be found at <http://www.in.gov/legislative>